



# County of San Diego

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES HEALTH SERVICES COMPLEX

3851 ROSECRANS, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92110  
(619) 531-5800 FAX (619) 542-4186

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE  
DIRECTOR

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Emergency Medical Care Committee  
Linda Rosenberg, Chair  
c/o Emergency Medical Services  
6255 Mission Gorge Road  
San Diego, CA 92120  
(619) 285-6429 Fax: (619) 285-6531

Epidemiology & Immunization Services  
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services  
HIV, STD and Hepatitis  
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services  
Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing  
Border Health  
TB Control & Refugee Health  
Vital Records

### MISSION STATEMENT

**“As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system.”**

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

### Minutes

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

### Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District Five  
Adler, Fred – District Three  
Broyles, R.N., Linda – Co. Paramedics Agencies Committee  
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hospital Assoc. of SD/Imp Counties  
Green, R.N., Katy – District One  
Howard, R.N., LuAnn – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinator  
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – District Four  
Marugg, Jim – S.D. County Paramedics Association  
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – District Two  
Nevin, Jon – S.D. County Paramedic Association (Alt)  
Rothlein, Sgt. Jason – Law Enforcement  
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Association

### Vacant Positions

Binational EMCC  
League of California Cities  
Military Agencies  
San Diego County Medical Society  
San Diego Emergency Physicians' Society

### In Attendance

Forman, R.N., Kelly – Mercy Air  
Francis, Allen – CA Dept of  
Corrections/CCHCS  
Leigh, Chief Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs  
Association

### County Staff

Beam, Jamie  
Haynes, M.D., Bruce  
Metz, Marcy  
Pate, R.N., Rebecca

### Recorder

Wolchko, Janet I.

## I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Rosenberg, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:03 am. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS**

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Stephen Abbott, seconded by Linda Broyles to approve the EMCC minutes from September 27, 2012. Motion carried.**

## **IV. STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Prehospital/Hospital**

Prehospital Subcommittee did not meet.

### **B. Education and Research**

Education and Research Subcommittee did not meet.

### **C. Disaster/Operations**

Sharon Carlson reminded everyone that the Statewide Medical Healthcare Exercise is on November 15, 2012.

- The scenario for the 2012 Statewide Medical and Health Exercise is a loss of power due to an earthquake.
- At the County level, the emphasis will be on Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) evacuation.
- Grossmont and Kaiser Hospitals will practice on high rise rescue and evacuation with their local first responders.
- The exercise will take place from 7 pm to 11 pm.
- There will be a National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) bed count in the morning.

## **V. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)**

A. There has been no reported influenza in the community. Surveillance shows that there are only sporadic cases.

B. The protocol task force has met twice to look at revisions in the treatment guidelines.

C. State activity:

1. The comment period for paramedic regulations and practices regarding Inter-facility Transport (IFT) and Critical Care Transport (CCT) will have an additional 15 day comment period that will be sent out next week.
2. The STEMI regulations will be released in a day or two for general comment.

## **VI. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, Chief EMS)**

- A. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Care Summit is tomorrow at Scripps La Jolla.
- B. Health Safety Capacity Task Force and Capacity Plan
  - 1. Prehospital and Emergency Departments reported a 6% increase in volume.
  - 2. The Health Safety Capacity Task Force Subcommittee convened last week to discuss Level 1 surveillance and to recommend any changes in the triggers for advanced levels.
    - Additional reports such as 911 and monthly reports will be added to the surveillance in the pre-phase monitoring.
    - No changes were made to the triggers that signal a need to look at community needs and to take additional measures.
  - 3. A draft of the plan will be out by the end of the month
- C. A notice will be sent to the hospitals for employee jury duty waivers. Employees will be able to waive jury duty during high capacity and winter months which will help with staffing at the hospitals.
- D. Quality Assurance Network Collection System (QCS) and internet based QCS (iQCS)
  - 1. iQCS was taken off line today until technical and security issues are resolved.
  - 2. QCS will remain until iQCS issues are resolved. Use QCS California Emergency Medical Services Information System (CEMSIS) in the interim.
  - 3. The community will be notified when the issues are resolved.
- E. Marcy Metz introduced Brett Eldridge who is the new EMS ambulance ordinance contact for the County.
- F. EMS is recruiting for three nurse positions.
  - 1. A public health position for the disaster unit that will be back-up for the Strategic National Stockpile City Readiness Initiative (CRI) position.
  - 2. There will be recruitment for Ruth Duke's position which manages the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program, Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Continuing of Operations Plan (COOP) and narcotic program. Ruth is retiring in March 2013.
  - 3. There is an opening for a QCS specialist position for agency coordination.

Recruitment notices for the positions are posted on the website and are sent to organizations, the Nurses Association, and posted on the EMSAAC website.

## **VII. FEE SCHEDULE**

Marcy Metz introduced Jamie Beam who is the EMS Administration Manager. Ms. Beam will review the proposed EMS fee schedule for FY 2013/14 and the current EMS personnel fees for EMT certification, paramedic accreditation and MICN.

A. Background

1. In February 2010, a proposed fee schedule for certification and accreditation in San Diego County was presented to EMCC. At the time, it was to be a phased implementation of the fee schedule; \$30 for FY 2010/11, \$40 for FY 2011/12 and \$50 for FY 2012/13. Since State EMT 2010 regulations and fees were to be implemented at the same time, County fees were postponed.
2. During the County Budget Build process fees are reviewed to ensure cost recovery. Program costs and fees associated with the programs are periodically reviewed to make sure they are sufficient to offset the operational costs.

B. San Diego EMS Personnel Fees

1. County fees have not increased since 1990. The current fee has a \$15 base fee plus a \$2 charge for the photo.
2. EMT 2010 requirements have increased the number of applications that are processed and additional steps and data entry.
3. Personnel fees include staffing required to process applications, front desk, computers and card printing. It is projected that in FY 2012/13 the cost of County personnel will be \$210,000. Prior to EMT 2010 the cost was \$150,000.

Personnel fee cost in other Counties

1. The current \$15 San Diego County fee is one of the lowest statewide.
2. When implemented, the \$50 fee will place San Diego closer to the average fee cost compared to other counties.
3. For paramedics and MICN's, the average cost in other counties is significantly higher than San Diego County. In San Diego, since processing an application takes the same amount of time for certification, accreditation and authorization; the fee is the same for each application type.
4. Other counties have additional fees; for example, fees for County ID cards and a lapse fee for paramedics and MICN's.

C. Ambulance Permitting Fees

1. San Diego County fee schedule for ambulance permit and inspection has not changed since 1995.
2. Program costs are approximately \$150,000.
3. The agency initial application fee in FY 2012/13 will be \$2,000, plus the \$500 increase in FY 2013/14. Renewal fee increases from \$1,000 in FY 2012/13 to \$2,000 in FY 2013/14.
4. There will be an increase of \$25 for inspections, increasing it from \$250 in FY 2012/13 to \$275 in FY 2013/14.

Ambulance permitting fees cost in other Counties

1. The average agency fee in other counties is \$3,300 for initial application and \$2,900 for renewal. San Joaquin has a fee of \$12,500 which is much higher than the rest and is not calculated in the average.
2. Each agency pays a flat rate for ambulance inspection.

3. The proposed fee of \$2,500 for San Diego is below the average. The analysis does not include the training provider fee or continuing education fees. Those fees will be reviewed at a later date.
- D. A summary was given of fee schedules and full cost recovery including personnel fees and agency fees.
- E. Discussion
  1. The \$50 fee is an all inclusive cost recovery for processing.
  2. Analysis of EMT 2010 Investigation and Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) costs was completed for one fiscal year starting July 1, 2010 to 2011. ALJ costs, staff costs and County Counsel costs are an additional \$180,000. These costs are not included in personnel fees.
    - ALJ costs are reimbursable at the end of the fiscal year based on a pool of funds at EMSA.
    - In the first year there was full cost recovery for ALJ fees which does not include EMS cost. \$4,000 has been recovered for 4 hearings.
  3. Ambulance Association Enforcement costs, late fee charges and lapsed fees were mentioned. It was suggested to support fees for credential lapse.
  4. Budget Build is in late January and February 2013. The Public Health fee schedule will be brought forward to the Board of Supervisors during the Budget Build Process.
  5. Discussion on the County fee schedule will continue at the EMCC November meeting. The fee schedule change will take place July 1, 2013.

## **VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

Sharon Carlson mentioned that Dr. Colleen Buono is stepping down as the EMCC alternate representative from the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties. Information on nominating a new alternate to EMCC will be forwarded to the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

EMCC next meeting will be on the fifth Thursday in November due to the Statewide Medical Health drill on November 15<sup>th</sup> and the Thanksgiving Holiday on November 22. It was decided to schedule the EMCC November meeting on Thursday, November 29, 9:00 am.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

Submitted by,

Janet I. Wolchko, Administrative Secretary III  
County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services